



John

Attorney Docket No.: 43890-552
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
Shunji IMAI, et al. : Customer No.20277
Serial No.: 09/986,975 : Confirmation No.: 6015
Filed: November 13, 2001 : Group Art Unit: 1746
For: WASHING APPARATUS AND METHOD OF WASHING LAUNDRY : Examiner: JOSEPH L. PERRIN

ELECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121

Mail Stop Amendment
Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed July 13, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire August 13, 2004, wherein the Examiner required restriction between the following distinct *Species*:

A. *Draining Means*:

- I - Figures 1-10, 21-25 and 25;
- II - Figures 11-13;
- III - Figures 14-16;
- IV - Figures 18-20; and
- V - Figures 28-32.

B. Structural Arrangement for Storage:

- I. - Figures 1-32;
- II. - Figures 33-35;
- III - Figure 37; and
- IV - Figure 38.

Applicants elect without traverse, *Species A* – with claims 1-27, 32 and 34-36 readable thereon, for initial prosecution on the merits.

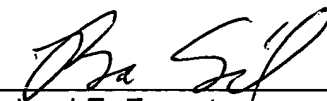
Applicants also reserve the right to file a Divisional Application for the non-elected claims, which the Examiner has indicated is patentably distinct.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that Applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0417. A duplicate copy of this Response is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/12/04

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